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What I claim is:

*Suba'7* 1. A heat-conducting support for a round or curved bottom vessel, comprising:

5 a metallic unit having an inner portion, an outer portion, and a base for placement on a heating element;

wherein said inner portion is concavely curved to support a vessel having a round or curved bottom;

10 wherein said outer portion adjoins said inner portion at an upper location remote from a bottom of said inner portion; and

wherein said outer portion extends away from said upper location of said inner portion toward said base and merges with said base.

15 2. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said metallic unit is made of heat conductive and essentially non-magnetic metal.

3. A heat-conducting support according to claim 2, wherein said metal is aluminum or copper.

20 4. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said inner portion, said outer portion, and said base are respectively made of a single sheet of metal.

5. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said inner portion, said outer portion, and said base comprises a multi-layer sheet of metal.

5 6. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said outer portion tapers outwardly from said upper location toward said base.

10 7. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said outer portion extends essentially cylindrically from said upper location toward said base.

15 8. ~~A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said base is a continuous sheet with or without apertures.~~

9. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said base is substantially flat.

10 10. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said inner portion and said outer portion are a monolithic component, and wherein said base is a separate component to which said outer portion is connected.

15 11. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said base extends radially outwardly from where said outer portion merges with said base.

20 12. A heat-conducting support according to claim 11, wherein said inner portion, said outer portion, and said base are a monolithic component.

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13. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein  
said base is formed by a lower part of said outer portion remote from  
said upper location of said inner portion.

14. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein  
said outer portion has a circular cross-sectional configuration, and said  
base is square.

15. A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein  
said bottom of said inner portion is curved or has a small flat section.

16. A heat-conducting support according to cl15, wherein  
said bottom of said inner portion is disposed in a plane of said base or  
is spaced from such a plane.

add a<sup>2</sup>

add b<sup>1</sup>